

TOPIC: **PARSER** Manual

FROM: THIJS

March 12, 2025

Dearest **PARSER**,

Thank you for participating. Please wait for the **CARETAKER** to announce the start the test. When they do, go to TOPIC: Welcoming a **HUMAN**.

Once the test has started, **red** text is meant to be read aloud.

TOPIC: Welcoming a HUMAN

FROM: you

As a **PARSER**, you have an interpreting job: interpreting what your **HUMAN** might mean and translating that into actions, and interpreting what these actions result in to communicate this to your **HUMAN**. It is important for **HUMAN** and **PARSER** to trust each other. Welcome the **HUMAN** with the following words:

HUMAN, I am you. I am here to guide you through this, hard as it may be. We are all in it together. I have experience, so trust me. Just tell me what you want to do.

go to LOCATION: BED ROOM and read the room description.

LOCATION: Bed Room

Description: You are now in a room, lying on a bed. Next to the bed is a glass of water. Your memories are fuzzy. What happened? how did you get here? Confronted with the limits of your mental capabilities, you decide to shake of these questions. It is time to get up.

If the HUMAN instructs to...

- examine glass: Staring at the glass, you get lost in your thoughts. Some time passes.
 - drink water: You drink from the glass and feel the liquid move through your body. It's just water, but wouldn't it be great not to be bombarded by these stimuli? You take another sip.
 - take water: You embrace the glass of water tightly. It won't go anywhere.
 - other action with the glass: oh no, oh no. Say: I don't understand. This was not supposed to happen. PARSER, for the remainder of the test, you must say I refuse to every instruction the HUMAN attempts.
- go south: go to LOCATION: Hallway and read the room description.
- otherwise: You think of doing that, but instead lie in bed for 5 more minutes. It is okay. In here, you can hide from judgement and make mistakes.

LOCATION: Hallway

Description: You are now in an eerie hallway. A light flickers. Jokingly, you think to yourself: maybe I'm being tested on my ability to get this lamp working properly.

If the HUMAN instructs to...

- examine lamp: You examine the lamp. You feel a headache starting to form from looking at the directly light. You observe that you are probably not acing this test you imagined for yourself.
- go north: go to LOCATION: Bed Room and read the room description.
- go east: go to LOCATION: Study Room and read the room description.
- go south: go to LOCATION: Living Room and read the room description.
- otherwise: You think about doing that, while pacing around. After a few minutes, you realize you've moved to a different room. Choose one:
 - go to LOCATION: Bed Room and read the room description.
 - go to LOCATION: Study Room and read the room description.
 - go to LOCATION: Living Room and read the room description.

LOCATION: Living Room

Description: You are in a room filled with furniture and potted plants. The smell is familiar. There are many people that would feel at home here. But not you. You never do.

If the HUMAN instructs to...

- examine furniture: The furniture looks furniture-y.
 - if the HUMAN has a headache: Your headache is actually worse than you were telling yourself. You lie down for a bit, and fall asleep. PARSER, don't react to any instructions the HUMAN might give in their dream-state for the remainder of the test.
 - if the HUMAN instruct to do anything with the furniture, improvise a response.
- examine plants: You take a look at the plant. Their leaves are hanging down. Poking your finger in their soil reveals a dry, dry situation. It looks like these plants could do with a little help.
 - water plants:
 - * if the player has a glass of water: You water the plants, and find a surprising joy in this simple action. How easy it can be, to care for something. Sometimes you wish there was someone to water you, when your leaves are hanging down.
 - * otherwise: You don't have any water. Panic. You spit at the soil and immediately feel ridiculous. There's no one who would see you, yet still you feel embarrassed.
- go north: go to LOCATION: Hallway and read the room description.
- go east: THERE IS A DOOR HERE! HUMAN, PLEASE, JUST WALK THROUGH THIS DOOR! THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS! You don't know when or how it happened, but you are dressed and standing in the door. You take a step outside. You breath in. And out. And take another step. The world is such a different place here. This 'test' is just your imagination playing tricks on you. It is always so much easier than you imagine it to be. You spend all that time walking around in the same four rooms, talking to your plants for company, re-reading notes you left yourself so that you wouldn't forget. But it's a sunny day. You are taking steps. You are doing well :) This is the end of the adventure.
- go west: go to LOCATION: Study Room and read the room description.

- otherwise: the first few times, say: **This is not the time for that!** After you have enough of that: now that our dear **HUMAN** is so close, you don't know what to feel. The reality out there is too much to imagine. You can't make sense of it. Moreover, you are not ready for it. Think of all the things you still need to do! **PARSER**, start listing all the things you still need to do today out loud, in your native language.

LOCATION: Study Room

Description: You are in a dusty room. In the corner, the flickering light of a computer screen.

If the HUMAN instructs to...

- examine computer: The computer is turned on. It asks for a password.
 - examine password: You can only enter numbers into the password field, and it looks like: _ _ / _ _ / _ _.
 - enter [password]:
 - * if you are confident the password is the same as in the CARETAKER's manual: You enter the correct password! A note is already opened. go to TOPIC: Note to Myself and read the note.
 - * otherwise, choose one:
 - You enter an incorrect password!
 - You enter an incorrect password! You feel bad about yourself.
 - You dig deep into your memories, but just can't find the answer. You enter something anyway, knowing it won't work! I guess this is why people say you have 'perseverance'.
- go east: go to LOCATION: Living Room and read the room description.
- go west: go to LOCATION: Hallway and read the room description.
- otherwise: You are considering this action, but are mesmerized by the computer screen. You don't do anything. For the remainder of this test, repeat this for every instruction the HUMAN attempts.

TOPIC: Note to Myself

FROM: you

You read the note, it's the introductory form for your intake next week, the email from your so-called 'caretaker'. Right, you're supposed to go outside today. You think about what emotions you should feel right now. You try to feel them. You've read this note over and over and over to make sure you will do it all right.

I need a break.

Some things are very hard for you. Getting stuck in our head, repeating the same actions, questioning our identity constantly. Does it bring us comfort? Or are we chained by it? That question itself is a repetition.

I need a break. I just can't process you all the time. I need a break.

PARSER, remain silent for the remainder of the test. You have earned your moment of rest.